THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, the Prison Administration continuously monitors the position and there is no undertrial prisoner lodged at present in the Central Jail, Tihar who has spent in the jail a period more than the maximum period of imprisonment that can be awarded to him for the offence he is alleged to have committed.

Stiff Competition Faced by Cotton Textile Industry

*534. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA :

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether synthetic cloth materials are posing challenge to cotton textile markets: and

(b) if so, the measures proposed to help the cotton textile industry and the markets?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) No Sir, Cotton and synthetic textiles including blends complement and supplement each other according to varying consumer demands and preferences.

(b) Government of India have launched the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for modernisation of the textile indusry and the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) with a view to improving productivity and quality of cotton, thereby, ensuring availability of quality raw material to the textile industry and strengthening its competitiveness in both domestic and international markets.

Garment Exports

*535. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) The total export of garments during the last financial year 1999-2000;

(b) the increase/decrease percentage as compared to the previous year 1998-99;

(c) what steps are being taken to boost garment exports;

(d) whether Government propose to give any additional incentives to encourage export of garments; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) The export of garments amounted to Rs. 23,983 crores during the financial year 1999-2000 as compared to Rs. 22,209 crores during the year 1998-99, recording an increase of 8%.

(c) Government have been taking several steps from time to time to boost garment exports. Some of the important initiatives are as under :—

(1) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme has been made operational with effect from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of textile sector.

(2) The New Export Entitlement (Quota) Policy for the period 2000-2004 has been announced to provide stability and continuity and encourage competitiveness in textile exports.

(3) Non-Quota Entitlement (NQE) System for encouraging non-quota exports to quota and non-quota countries has been retained to boost exports in apparel sector-value added segment of Indian textiles.

(4) The facility to import capital goods under Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme at 5% concessional rate of duty.

(5) Zero Duty import of certain categories of trimmings and embellishments has been allowed.

(d) and (e) Government has already been granting various incentives for readymade garment exports, such as Duty Drawback, DEPB credit, duty free import of inputs under Advance Licencing Scheme, duty-free import of essential items of trimmings and embellishments, partial exemption under 80 HHC of Income Tax Act, etc.

Attack on Assam Minister

*536. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :